

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JOHN TRATTNER:SP
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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182730 TOSEC 080082

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS -- TRATTNER

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OVIP, SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, AUGUST 3, 1977

NO. 10

1. EVANS AND NOVAK AUGUST 3 COLUMN, WHICH YOU MAY HAVE SEEN, ALLEGED THAT PRESIDENT WILL BE PRESENTED THIS WEEK BY "HIS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISERS" WITH NEW DEFENSE STRATEGY THAT CONCEDES ONE-THIRD OF WEST GERMANY TO A SOVIET INVASION RATHER THAN SEEK INCREASED DEFENSE SPENDING. IMPLICATIONS OF THIS STRATEGY, SAID COLUMN, WOULD BE CONCEALED FROM EUROPEAN PUBLIC, THEREBY MAKING IT PALATABLE. COLUMN SAYS THIS COURSE WAS ADOPTED BY BRZEZINSKI IN MEETINGS JULY 28-29 WITHOUT DISSENT FROM SENIOR OFFICIALS ATTENDING. ASKED ABOUT THIS IN BRIEFING, I SAID IT IS U.S. POLICY TO ENGAGE IN THE FORWARD DEFENSE OF ALL OF WESTERN EUROPE; THIS LONGSTANDING POLICY, WHICH HAS BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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SHAPED JOINTLY WITH NATO ALLIES, REMAINS UNCHANGED IN ITS TOTALITY. I ADDED THAT STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO BRZEZINSKI BY ANONYMOUS SOURCES QUOTED IN COLUMN ARE PARTIAL AND INACCURATE, AND DEAL ONLY WITH ONE ASPECT OF THE OVERALL DEFENSE STRATEGY THAT MIGHT BE APPLIED IN EVENT OF ATTACK ON WESTERN EUROPE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT REPORTS THAT CUBAN EXILES IN JUNE CALLED OFF A PLANNED RAID ON CUBA PARTLY BECAUSE DEPARTMENT HAD PASSED WORD OF RAID PLANS TO CUBAN UN MISSION, I CONFIRMED THAT WE HAVE EXCHANGED INFORMATION WITH CUBAN GOVERNMENT ON POSSIBLE TERRORIST ACTS, AND THAT WE DO SO IN SUCH A WAY AS TO BE SURE THERE IS NO COMPROMISE OF SOURCES OF OUR INFORMATION. I DECLINED TO GO INTO DETAIL, INCLUDING CHANNEL OR PROCEDURES USED TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION, AND FENDED OFF NUMEROUS OTHER QUESTIONS; MOST NOTABLE OF THESE WAS WHETHER CHOICE OF WORD "EXCHANGED" WAS DELIBERATE (IT WAS, BUT I LIMITED MY ANSWER TO REPEATING ABOVE RESPONSE).

3. PANAMA CANAL TREATY: I SAID FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN RESUMED, AND NO DATE SET YET FOR RESUMPTION. I REPEATED AUGUST 2 RESPONSE--THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, BUT THEY CANNOT BE DESCRIBED AS NEGOTIATIONS.

4. MAKARIOS: BELIEVE TEXT OF OUR VOLUNTEERED STATEMENT ON HIS DEATH HAS BEEN SENT TO PARTY SEPTEL. I ALSO NOTED THAT SECRETARY HAD SENT MESSAGE TO KYPRIANOU.

5. NEW SUBJECT: GUIDANCE IS IN HAND (BUT NOT YET USED) ON SUBJECT OF TONGSUN PARK. IN RESPONSE QUESTION WHETHER DEPARTMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN ANY DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY AT RECONFIDENTIAL

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QUEST JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO SECURE HIS RETURN TO US, IT REPLIES: AS IN OTHER ASPECTS OF THIS CASE, WE DO NOT PLAN TO DISCUSS MATTERS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED WITHIN DEPARTMENT WHETHER IN INTERESTS OF OPENNESS WE CANNOT SIMPLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT DEPARTMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN SUCH ACTIVITY, IF THAT IS IN FACT THE CASE. SUCH RESPONSE, HOWEVER, MIGHT BE SPECULATIVELY TIED TO RECENT HABIB VISIT. MY OWN RECOMMENDATION IS TO LEAVE GUIDANCE AS IS. CAN YOU ASK HABIB WHAT HE WISHES TO DO? CHRISTOPHER

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